

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
TYLER DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

v.

AMBER CHRISTOPH,

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CASE NUMBER 6:16-CR-00006-JRG-JDL

**REPORT & RECOMMENDATION OF
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

On November 14, 2018, the Court conducted a hearing to consider the government's petition to revoke the supervised release of Defendant Amber Christoph. The government was represented by Allen Hurst, Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, and Defendant was represented by Ken Hawk, Federal Public Defender.

Defendant originally pled guilty to the offense of Escape from Custody, a Class D felony. The United States Sentencing Guideline range for this offense, based on a total offense level of 7 and a criminal history category of IV, was 8 to 14 months. On July 26, 2016, District Judge Michael H. Schneider sentenced Defendant to 6 months imprisonment followed by 3 years of supervised release, subject to the standard conditions of release, plus special conditions to include financial disclosure, substance abuse testing and treatment, mental health treatment, and 180 day placement in a residential reentry facility. Defendant's term of imprisonment ran consecutive to her imprisonment under Case No. 9:12-cr-00034-RC, Eastern District of Texas, Lufkin Division. On January 30, 2017, Defendant completed the term of imprisonment and began her term of supervised release.

Under the terms of supervised release, Defendant was required to not purchase, possess, use, distribute, or administer any controlled substance or any paraphernalia related to any controlled substances, except as prescribed by a physician. In its petition, the government alleges that Defendant violated her conditions of supervised release when she submitted a urine specimen, which tested positive for methamphetamine on January 10, 2018 and August 22, 2018. The government also alleges that Defendant submitted a urine specimen, which tested positive for cocaine and marijuana on January 10, 2018 and January 27, 2018. The government represents that Fifth Circuit case law permits a court to find that illicit drug use constitutes possession for the offense.

If the Court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that Defendant violated the conditions of supervised release when she possessed methamphetamine on January 10, 2018 and August 22, 2018 and cocaine on January 10, 2018 and January 27, 2018, Defendant will have committed a Grade B violation. U.S.S.G. § 7B1.1(a). Upon finding of a Grade B violation, the Court shall revoke supervised release. U.S.S.G. § 7B1.3(a)(1). Considering Defendant's criminal history category of IV, the Guideline imprisonment range for a Grade B violation is 12 to 18 months. U.S.S.G. § 7B1.4(a).

At the hearing, the Parties indicated that they had come to an agreement to resolve the petition whereby Defendant would plead true to violating the conditions of supervision by committing the acts as described in Allegation 4 in the government's petition. In exchange, the government agreed to recommend to the Court a sentence of 13 months imprisonment, with no supervised release to follow, to run concurrent with any sentence under the petition pending in Case No. 9:12-cr-00034-RC, Eastern District of Texas, Lufkin Division.

The Court therefore **RECOMMENDS** that Defendant Amber Christoph's plea of true be accepted and she be sentenced to 13 months imprisonment, with no supervised release to follow, to run concurrently with the sentence imposed in Case No. 9:12-cr-00034-RC, Eastern District of Texas, Lufkin Division. The Court further **RECOMMENDS** that Defendant serve her sentence at FMC Carswell, if available. The parties waived their right to objections so this matter shall be immediately presented to the District Judge for consideration.

So **ORDERED** and **SIGNED** this 15th day of November, 2018.



JOHN D. LOVE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE